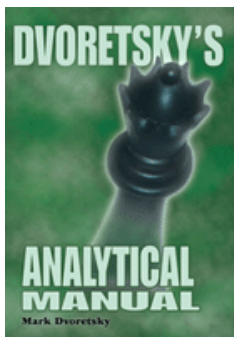




**BOOK REVIEWS**

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Hosted by  
Mark Donlan



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**From the Archives...**

Since it came online many years ago, [ChessCafe.com](#) has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the [ChessCafe.com](#) home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives...*

**The Secret Is Out**

by Hanon W. Russell

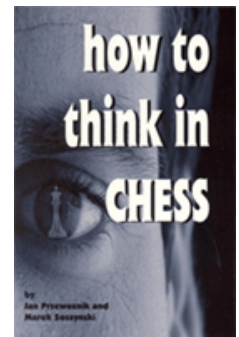
*Kaissiber*, Edited by Stefan Bucker, In German, Published Quarterly, German Algebraic Notation, 82pp., Annual subscription (four issues): 44 DM

Most chess players are familiar with the higher profile mainstream chess magazines that have been on the scene for years. Magazines such as *Chess Life*, *British Chess Magazine* and *New In Chess*, to name just a few. However, there are other magazines out there that provide outstanding chess journalism even though they are less well known. This week we turn our attention to one of them, the German magazine *Kaissiber* under the editorship of Stefan Bucker.

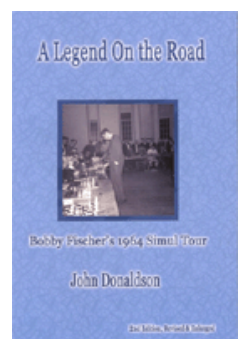


In this era of hackneyed chess journalism and sloppy research, Bucker's *Kaissiber* is a refreshing burst of fresh air. Here you will not find coverage of the latest Category Umpteen tournament or the latest polemics swirling around FIDE's most recent actions. You will find fascinating articles about chess history, computer chess and, most assuredly, opening theory, particularly of irregular, unorthodox and controversial openings. In the mix you are also served vintage photographs, whimsical drawings, book reviews and tactical positions to solve, all of which add up to pure delight for even the most demanding of gourmet palates.

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The most recent issue of *Kaissiber* (No. 8, October-December 1998) will give you a very good idea of what to expect. It begins with six pages of letters from readers (“Leserbriefe”) that, for the most part, tackle opening analytical issues from previous issues. This is followed by a regular feature, Chrilly Donninger’s column on computer chess, “Von Bytes und Bauern.” British IM Gary Lane follows with a seven-page article on the Grand Prix Attack in the Sicilian Defense (“Methodenwechsel im Grand-Prix-Angriff”).

After a couple of quick pages dealing with two other variations of the Sicilian, we arrive at an article by Bücken on a very unusual defensive system for Black: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d5 3 exd5 Qxd5 (“Komfortable Verteidigung – Komfortable Abwehr des Standardszuges 2.Sf3”). Now, you might be thinking that this might arouse your curiosity for a page or two, but what can anyone really do with something like this? Alas, you have been exposed as one who is not familiar with *Kaissiber*.



The author probes the analytical depths of this unusual Black defensive set-up for fifteen (!) pages, supplementing references and variations with historical background, rare photographs and the occasional drawing. Bücken takes his work very seriously, providing thorough analysis, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of variations and giving honest assessments. It is a creative, free-thinking mind at work here, but one that does not shy away from the tremendous effort and precision required to produce a top-notch discussion of opening theory.

Another opening piece, also by Bückner, on several variations of the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit follows, and then a very interesting article about Kurt Richter by IM Reinhart Fuchs. Annotated games, sidebars and the occasional digression are also scattered throughout this issue, which is rounded out nicely with book reviews of approximately two dozen books. The books are either in English (Bückner's English is excellent) or German, and the reviews range from in-depth to brief snapshots ("kurz vorgestellt").

*Kaissiber* is entirely in German. And, no, we are not going to try to tell you that you will be able to sort things out with the help of Informant-type symbols. There is considerably more text than that. But we can say that this is an outstanding quarterly magazine, produced on fine quality coated stock. It should provide most chess players with many hours of enjoyment each issue.

If you are a regular visitor to [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com), you will already know that we have not hesitated to present unusual material if we feel it is of good quality and of interest to our readers. To get a better idea of what *Kaissiber* is about, we have made arrangements to publish in The Skittles Room a [short article](#) that first appeared in *Kaissiber* No. 5 (January-March, 1998). Furthermore, we have left it in its original form, in German. We invite you to read Stefan Bückner's short article discussing how strong a player Emil Diemer was: "Wie stark spielte Emil Josef Diemer?"

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### [Order \*Kaissiber\*](#)

Edited by Stefan Bückner

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English readers can download a [17-page PDF](#) file from the *Kaissiber* website of commonly used expressions that have been translated from German to English.

This article first appeared at [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com) in October, 1998.

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